

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS PARIS 004724

SIPDIS

FROM USMISSION UNESCO
FOR STATE IO/T JANE COWLEY, EB PAUL ACETO, OES/STAS
ANDREW W. REYNOLDS
STATE PASS USAID NORMAN RIFKIN
STATE PASS NSC GENE WHITNEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [TSPL](#) [EAID](#) [SENV](#) [IZ](#) [UNESCO](#) [KSCI](#)

SUBJECT: USUNESCO: UNESCO PLANS SMALL EXPERTS

MEETING IN TRIESTE ON RECONSTRUCTING IRAQI SCIENCE

1. Summary and Introduction: The Director of UNESCO's Science Analysis and Policies Division, Mustafa El Tayeb, informed USUNESCO science officer and intern (notetaker) that his office plans a September 8 - 10, 2005 meeting in Trieste, Italy to discuss efforts to rebuild Iraq's science infrastructure. El Tayeb said that the planned meeting will be co-hosted by UNESCO and the Trieste-based International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). It will include the Iraqi Vice Minister of Higher Education and three other Iraqi delegation members, as well as three UNESCO division directors, including El Tayeb and Georges Haddad of the Higher Education Division of the education sector. El Tayeb indicated that he and ICTP Director K.R. Sreenivasan would welcome USG involvement in the meeting. End Summary and Introduction.

2. Trieste Meeting Goals. The purpose of the planned Trieste meeting will be to follow up on discussions first launched at the February 22-23 Iraqi Higher Education Seminar that took place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. In Trieste, attendees will discuss and assess "needs-at-large," particularly for re-training of Iraqi scientists. El Tayeb indicated that the Iraqi delegation has requested advice from UNESCO's DG, who responded that water resources are the most important priority for Iraqi reconstruction. However, El Tayeb noted that capacity building in Iraq will also require broad science training programs and technology upgrading.

3. Funding. El Tayeb indicated that there are two current sources of UN funding for efforts to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure. First, there is a United Nations Development Group (UNDG) fund, which is supported by donors, coordinated through New York and managed by a UNDG in Amman. The UNDG fund includes \$3.3 million earmarked for water resources, plus another \$20.1 million for education and technology. Second, there is a \$15 million pledge from a Qatari Princess to benefit higher education in post-war Iraq; within UNESCO, the education sector is taking the lead on these funds. Of this \$15 million, \$300,000 has been earmarked for a pilot scientists training program that El Tayeb expects will take place in Amman, Jordan because of its proximity to Iraq and the presence there of necessary facilities. El Tayeb indicated that approximately \$8 million has already been spent on equipment for universities, and that the balance of the \$15 million is earmarked for additional equipment, dormitories and for 500 fellowships to train Iraqi scientists in other countries. El Tayeb posited that it makes sense to provide training for Iraqi scientists either in country or in neighboring countries.
Oliver